specific centrally sponsored/central sector schemes under which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/ hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years through adoption of regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

(c) The crop specific schemes are being implemented in Orissa also. Besides, Soil and Water Conservation (SWC), Rainfed Farming System (RFS) and Horticulture Development Schemes are being implemented in the State.

Bilateral talks with Bangladesh

1745. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral talks with Bangladesh were held in the recent past to thrash out the issues of infiltration, exchange of enclaves and cross border smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereto; and

(c) what other steps Government propose to take to curb infiltration and smuggling on Indo-Bangla borders?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Director General level talks between Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles were held in Dhaka on 25—28 October, 1998 and Home Secretary level talks were held in Dhaka on 20—22 November, 1998. The exchange of enclaves is directly linked to ratification of the 1974 Land boundary Agreement, which will follow completion of the demarcation of the boundary between India and Bangladesh for which work is going on. Both sides have agreed to adhere to specific procedures for repatriation of illegal immigrants. The Government of Bangladesh have conveyed the assuraance that measures will be taken to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing. Both sides also agreed to intensify cooperation to curb trans-border crimes including smuggling. Government have already undertaken the fencing of the border with Bangladesh in order to curb infiltration and smuggling.

Haj Advisory Committee

1746. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) why Government have not constituted the Haj Advisory Committee at the Central Government level;

(b) whether Government will consider constituting Haj Advisory Committee to advise the Government on Haj matters, consisting of Members of Parliament, Social workers, community leaders etc.;

(c) when is the bill to replace the present Haj Act likely to introduced in the Parliament;

(d) what are the reasons for the delay in introducing the bill inspite of several assurances given to Parliament; and

(e) whether Government are going back on its assurances?

THE MINISTER OF STATER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government of India have decided in principle to revive the Central Haj Advisory Board (CHAB), which had been in continuous existence until 1998, to advise Government on various matters pertaining to Haj;

(c) to (e) Government remains convinced of the need for a new Haj Act to

replace the Haj Committee Act of 1959, and towards this end, hopes to introduce legislation in the near future after consultations, inter-alia, with the departments concerned in the Central and State Governments.

Painting in UN Delegation Office

1747. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Entrance Hall in India's UN Delegation Office in New York has been painted;

(b) who has done the painting; and

(c) how much did this painting cost?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri M.F. Hussain.

(c) Expenditure on the work done, to date, is Rs. 10,96,784 (Approx.)

Regulatory mechanism for trade in Currency

1748. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the recent G-15 Summit meet in Jamaica, it was felt that if there was an organisation which regulated trade, it was also necessary that there should be a regulatory mechanism for trade in currency;

(b) if so, what precise consensus was reached about the structure and functioning of contemplated mechanism for trade in currency; and

(c) what steps have since been taken in pursuance thereof?.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) During discussions pertaining to the international financial crisis, the G-15 Summit at Jamaica recommended that concrete steps should be taken to develop mechanisms and adequate rules to monitor and supervise the operations of large financial market players, including hedge funds and currency speculators. They also expressed support for measures taken to increase transparency and accountability and prudential supervision and strengthening of national financial systems. They further emphasised that in the context of undertaking reforms in the international financial architecture, an international consultative process needs to be established to ensure that both developed and developing countries have a voice in the reforms being attempted. However, no specific regulatory mechanism for trade in currency was discussed.

(c) Does not arise.

विदेश यात्राओं के परिणाम

1749. **श्री राजूभाई ए० परमार:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विदेश मंत्री की हाल की, विदेश यात्राओं के क्या परिणाम निकले हैं;

(ख) क्या उनकी फ्रांस यात्रा के दौरान फ्रांस के साथ कोई रक्षा समझौता किया गया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) विदेश मंत्री ने 2-7 फरवरी, 1999 को जमैका तथा 20-21 फरवरी, 1999 को पाकिस्तान की यात्रा की उनकी यू के की यात्रा द्विपक्षीय यात्रा थी। जमैका की उनकी यात्रा जी-15 शिखर सम्मेलन के संबंध में थी। विदेश मंत्री ने प्रधान मंत्री के प्रतिनिधिमण्डल के एक सदस्य के रूप में पाकिस्तान की यात्रा की थी। देशवार उनकी यात्राओं के ब्यौरे इस प्रकार हैं;

यू०के०:— विदेश मंत्री ने अन्य बातों के साथ साथ द्विपक्षीय सहयोग, क्षेत्रीय विकास, नाभिकीय निरस्त्रीकरण तथा अप्रसार सहित बहुत से मसलों पर बातचीत की। इन वार्ताओं से आपसी समझबूझ बढ़ी है तथा मई, 1998 के पश्चात् द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में जो गतिरोध उत्पन्न हो गया था इससे उबरने में मदद मिली है।

जमैका:— शिखर-सम्मेलन मे विकासशील देशों की हित-चिन्ता के मसलों पर गहन बातचीत हुई। जिन मसलों पर बातचीत की गई उन में वर्तमान अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक स्थिति विश्व व्यापार संगठन के अन्तर्गत न्यायोचित एवं सम्पर्क नियमों पर आधारित बहुपक्षीय व्यापार प्रणाली की स्थापना की महत्ता की पुनः पुष्टि, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय ढांचे में सुधार, दक्षिण—दक्षिण और